

REMARKS

Summary

This amendment replaces the unentered amendment submitted March 10, 2004. Claims 1-5 were pending. Claim 1 has been rewritten and Claim 4 cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 1-3 and 5 are pending after entry of this amendment.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has amended portions of the specification to correct a mistranslation from the original Japanese priority document. As clearly shown in the figures and described in the other portions of the specification (e.g. p. 15, lines 1-2), the actuator can be moved in any direction with respect to the frame, and is thus swingably movable rather than merely being laterally movable. Thus, Applicant has rewritten those portions of the specification that refer to the actuator as being laterally movable. Applicant submits that as this is merely a mistranslation of the priority document (JP 2000-343987) and is clearly shown in the figures and described in the text, no new matter is being added by these changes.

As an example, Applicant submits the following abstract of JP 2000-343987 from the Japanese Patent Website: <http://www19.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/PA1/cgi-bin/PA1INDEX>.

A manual input device 1 is comprised of an actuator 14 freely shakably attached to a frame 12, a manual operation part 3 which attached to a driving shaft 14a of the actuator 14, a first position sensor 29 which detects the direction and the extent of shake of the actuator 14, a second position sensor 25 which detects the direction and the extent of rotation of the driving shaft of the actuator 14, and a control part which takes position signals outputted from first and second position sensors as inputs to control the actuator and loads the manual operation part 3 with an external force corresponding to the operation.

As seen, the term "shakably" in the machine translation of JP 2000-343987 above, while not a particularly good translation, is still closer to the term "swingably" used herein than the term "laterally" used in the originally filed U.S. application.

Applicant has also submitted a revised Fig. 10 in which the term "laterally" has been changed to "swingably."

Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Levin (U.S. Patent 6,154,201). Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, however, the Examiner indicated that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 4 and cancelled Claim 4. Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned agent or attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony P. Curtis, Ph.D.
Registration No. 46,193
Agent for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200